



# Michigan Crop Weather

## Cold and Wet

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 26, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.44 inches in the southeastern Lower Peninsula to 1.10 inches in the southwestern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 5 degrees below normal in the northeastern, central, southwestern, south central, and southeastern Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees below normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Freezing temperatures were experienced across the State. Rains, especially near the end of the week, slowed or halted fieldwork in many areas. A reporter in the northern Lower Peninsula stated, "What a nasty week with freezing temperatures and 4 days of rain. Fall work has come to a stop. Remaining corn and apples still need to be harvested. Fuel prices have come down, which has helped with fieldwork." Despite the delay in harvest and fieldwork, rain has helped recently planted crops. "Rain showers should help wheat and cover crops germinate," a grower in the south central region reported.

## Field Crops

Rains interrupted harvest and other field activities. **Corn** harvest continued where conditions allowed. Growers monitored the crop's moisture level. There were reports that hi-moisture corn harvest was nearly complete. **Soybean** harvest continued but was approaching completion. **Alfalfa** cutting neared completion with growers getting a third or fourth cutting. The haying season has come to an end for most farmers. **Dry bean** harvest neared completion. **Winter wheat** planting continued where field conditions allowed. The crop continued to emerge in the moist soils. The crop should benefit from recent rains. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued. Piling began early this past week.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/26/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	2	7	77	14
Subsoil	3	13	76	8

Crop condition for week ending 10/26/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Hay	2	12	36	42	8
Corn	3	10	29	42	16
Pasture	3	20	41	30	6
Soybeans	14	20	25	34	7
Winter Wheat	1	1	57	29	12

## Fruit

**Apple** harvest neared completion. **Grape** harvest will be completed this week. Fall clean-up activities began in some orchards and vineyards across the state.

## Vegetables

The inclement weather conditions toward the end of the week postponed harvest activities. Farmers faced the challenge of fields being dry enough to continue vegetable harvest. There were some areas that reported frost, but the colder weather did not harm **tomato** vines. **Carrot** and **onion** harvest continued. **Pumpkin** picking neared completion. **Potato** harvest neared completion. Processing **squash** harvest was moving along with minimal problems. Harvest of processing **celery** continued.

Crop progress for week ending 10/26/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All hay, third cutting	97	94	100	100
All hay, fourth cutting	62	53	75	75
Apples, harvested	91	79	96	NA
Corn, harvested	35	24	47	41
Dry beans, harvested	96	93	100	99
Potatoes, harvested	92	83	93	NA
Soybeans, harvested	88	74	73	74
Sugarbeets, harvested	41	19	34	48
Winter wheat, planted	92	85	93	90
Winter wheat, emerged	59	41	74	62

**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/26/08 <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2008	2007	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	51	25		1,997	2,494		0.68	0.80	1.80	18.15		
Marquette	53	21		1,869	2,377		1.24	1.33	3.07	19.97		
Stephenson	60	23		2,329	2,698		0.43	0.53	1.27	18.52		
<b>Western UP</b>	60	15	-4	2,006	2,477	2,027	0.59	0.69	1.57	17.11	22.10	2.57
Cornell	53	26		2,177	2,586		0.51	0.82	1.99	16.65		
Sault St Marie	53	26		1,912	2,335		0.45	0.99	2.29	18.05		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	53	20	-2	1,895	2,362	1,779	0.50	0.86	2.21	18.85	21.15	2.57
Beulah	57	24		2,540	2,888		0.78	0.97	2.37	22.29		
Lake City	52	20		2,361	2,675		1.40	1.68	3.12	26.82		
Old Mission	55	30		2,429	2,786		0.63	0.83	1.54	14.79		
Pellston	53	15		2,242	2,661		0.91	1.11	2.08	18.67		
<b>Northwest</b>	57	15	-4	2,328	2,698	2,326	0.80	1.02	2.00	19.25	20.48	2.75
Alpena	54	20		2,349	2,708		0.55	0.78	1.42	19.85		
Houghton Lake	52	18		2,410	2,707		0.87	1.07	1.52	22.58		
Rogers City	52	21		2,262	2,713		0.73	0.99	1.62	21.08		
<b>Northeast</b>	54	15	-5	2,334	2,689	2,246	0.75	0.98	1.60	21.53	20.09	2.40
Fremont	55	26		2,637	3,002		1.14	1.46	2.91	20.59		
Hart	55	22		2,527	2,875		0.66	0.97	1.95	20.94		
Muskegon	58	30		2,702	3,138		1.46	1.84	3.47	22.80		
<b>West Central</b>	60	19	-3	2,585	2,957	2,545	0.98	1.30	2.92	23.05	20.69	2.94
Alma	55	27		2,759	3,129		0.81	1.20	1.96	20.26		
Big Rapids	55	22		2,621	2,794		1.28	1.50	2.45	21.06		
<b>Central</b>	55	22	-5	2,666	2,962	2,630	1.08	1.33	2.25	19.86	21.20	2.59
Bad Axe	55	29		2,647	2,992		0.77	1.36	1.90	24.15		
Pigeon	58	28		2,554	2,880		0.74	1.01	1.81	18.10		
Saginaw	55	29		2,837	3,172		0.66	1.01	1.93	20.85		
Standish	55	26		2,497	2,857		1.19	1.32	2.25	22.34		
<b>East Central</b>	58	26	-4	2,608	2,975	2,646	0.76	1.06	2.10	21.40	18.92	2.41
Fennville	59	28		2,725	3,094		1.22	1.65	4.00	31.37		
Grand Rapids	68	29		3,065	3,468		1.30	1.58	3.05	28.76		
Holland	61	30		3,095	3,375		1.60	1.90	4.27	30.25		
South Bend, IN	65	29		3,191	3,626		1.26	1.94	2.78	29.37		
Watervliet	60	29		2,922	3,323		1.07	1.50	3.11	27.33		
<b>Southwest</b>	68	25	-5	2,951	3,309	2,897	1.10	1.52	3.11	28.90	22.12	2.99
Belding	56	24		2,708	3,027		1.08	1.33	2.52	19.64		
Coldwater	67	27		2,953	3,136		0.79	1.25	1.76	22.79		
Lansing	59	26		2,933	3,234		0.84	1.23	2.91	22.81		
<b>South Central</b>	67	24	-5	2,845	3,158	2,841	0.92	1.29	2.40	23.82	21.18	2.41
Detroit	65	32		3,268	3,534		0.31	0.73	1.26	17.77		
Flint	58	27		2,971	3,214		0.41	0.82	2.21	22.43		
Romeo	58	29		2,823	3,172		0.19	0.64	1.23	20.63		
Tipton	67	28		2,958	3,193		0.75	1.05	1.36	23.73		
Toledo, OH	65	29		3,251	3,473		0.42	1.13	1.47	21.48		
<b>Southeast</b>	67	24	-5	2,963	3,268	2,839	0.44	0.85	1.58	22.08	20.14	2.33

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup> Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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